
List of terms

AC

Alternating current

analog

A process that models information in the form of a continuously varying parameter such as current, voltage, or phase

analog signal

A signal that varies in a continuous manner such as voice or music. An analog signal can be contrasted with a digital signal, which represents only discrete states. The signal emitted by a data set has both analog and discrete characteristics.

architecture

The interrelationship between the parts of a system; the framework of a system

backplane

A printed circuit board that extends across the width of the card cage and connects to the circuit card connectors

battery backup

System power furnished by standby batteries that are charged by a charger. If commercial power fails, the batteries maintain service for a limited period of time, determined by the size of the batteries and the traffic on the system.

BTU

Bus Terminating Unit

capacity

The information-carrying ability of a telecommunications facility, group, network, or system measured in bits per second (bps)

card cage

A frame for holding circuit cards in a module; also called a card chassis

CBT

Core Bus Terminator

CE

Common Equipment

central office (CO)

The site where a telephone company terminates customer lines and houses the switching equipment that interconnects those lines

central processing unit (CPU)

The main portion of a computer that contains the primary storage, arithmetic and logic units, and the control unit (may also mean a mainframe computer)

circuit cards

Circuit cards carry the electronics for particular functions (such as memory and switching functions). Most cards are housed in the card cage in a module and connect to the backplane. Some cards must be installed in dedicated slots in a card cage. (Also called circuit packs or boards.)

CMA

Changeover and Memory Arbitrator

CMDU

Core Multi Drive Unit

CNI

Core to Network Interface

CO

Central office

common equipment (CE)

A hardware subsystem that houses one or more central processing units (CPUs), memory cards, disk drive units, and service cards

configuration

A group of machines (hardware) that are interconnected and are programmed to operate as a system

CP

Call Processor

CPU

Central Processing Unit

DC

Direct current

diagnostic programs

Software routines used to test equipment and identify faulty components

digital

A process that models information as discrete values of some parameter such as voltage, current, or phase

digital signal

A signal made up of discrete, noncontinuous pulses whose information is contained in the duration, periods, and/or amplitude

DTR

Digitone Receiver

EEPE

Enhanced Existing Peripheral Equipment

electromagnetic interference (EMI)

Unwanted electromagnetic coupling, such as a ham radio heard on a television, or static

EMSI

Enhanced Mass Storage Interface card

firmware

A set of instruction sequences stored permanently in hardware (ROM)

input/output (I/O)

Exchange between a machine and end user equipment

IODU/C

Input/Output Disk Unit with CD-ROM.

IOP

Input/Output Processor

IOP/CMDU

Input/Output Processor/CMDU combination unit

IPB

Inter-Processor Bus

IPE

Intelligent Peripheral Equipment

ISDN

Integrated Services Digital Network

line

A communications channel or circuit; an electrical path

loop

A bidirectional path between network equipment and peripheral equipment

MDU

Multi Disk Unit

module power supplies

Individual power units that generate the different DC voltages required by the cards installed in each module

MSI

Mass Storage Interface card

multiplex (MUX)

The process of combining two or more information channels into a single transmission channel

network equipment

A hardware subsystem that provides digital multiplexed switching for voice, data, and signaling paths

office data

Office data represents system configuration data, peripheral equipment data, and transient data (temporary) used for call processing

PCM

Pulse code modulation

PE

Peripheral Equipment

pedestal

The bottom element in a column. Each pedestal houses a blower unit, an air filter, the PDU (which contains the column circuit breakers), and the system monitor. (The pedestal in option 21A houses only the PDU.)

peripheral equipment (PE)

A hardware subsystem that provides analog and digital line and trunk interfaces and houses a combination of line, trunk, and Digitone receiver circuit cards

power distribution unit (PDU)

Input power for Meridian 1 is brought into the pedestal to the PDU. The PDU distributes input power to the column.

pulse code modulation (PCM)

A modulation technique where the signal is converted from an analog to a digital format by sampling the signal at periodic intervals and digitizing the amplitude into a finite number of discrete levels

random-access memory (RAM)

A storage system or computer memory accessible by the user for either storing or retrieving information. RAM is volatile memory.

read-only memory (ROM)

Storage system or computer memory that is “burned into” the microprocessor chip and can be read, but not written to or modified. ROM is nonvolatile memory.

redundancy

The duplication of software, or hardware, or both (such as redundant CPUs) used as a standby in case one fails

RPE

Remote Peripheral Equipment

SDI

Serial Data Interface. A family of cards equipped with SDI ports provide the I/O interface for the Meridian 1.

SMDU

Small System Multi Disk Unit

software

A set of programmed instruction sequences stored either as resident programs in system memory or as nonresident programs stored on disk and loaded into memory when needed

software generic

A term used to identify the system software. Each software generic (X11, for example) has a series of releases (such as release 15), so a software generic might be identified as X11 release 15.

system monitor

A microprocessor-based circuit card that controls and monitors the status of cooling equipment and power-related hardware and functions

TDS

Tone and Digit Switch

time compression multiplexing (TCM)

The combination of two or more information channels into a single transmission channel by assigning each information channel an exclusive periodic transmission time interval

TN

Terminal Number

top cap

The top cap is mounted on the top module of each column. It provides airflow exits, EMI/RFI shielding, I/O cable entry and exit, and overhead cable-rack mounting. The top cap covers thermal sensor assemblies for the column.

trunk

A single circuit between two points, both of which are switching centers or individual distribution points

universal equipment module (UEM)

A modular, self-contained hardware cabinet that houses a card cage, power supply, backplane, circuit cards, and other basic equipment. When equipped, the UEM becomes a specific type of module, such as a CPU Module or Network Module.

UPS

Universal Power Supply

V ac

Voltage alternating current

V dc

Voltage direct current